

THE OLDTIMER

Volume 32, Number 4

The Newsletter of the Josephine County Historical Society

December, 1997

We have a date

DECEMBER

■ **All month.** The bookshop is stocked for your gift-giving needs including holiday wreaths, books and gift memberships that make great stocking stuffers and support the society at the same time. See page 6 for details.

■ **All month.** Pat Bristol has a hand-made and painted holiday display up at Evergreen Federal.

■ **December 13.** The Schmidt House will be open as part of the annual Three Rivers Community Hospital Auxiliary Holiday Home Tour this year between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Several other homes will be on the tour, which costs \$5 and benefits the hospital. Tea will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Rogue Valley Retirement Center on A St. See story at right.

■ **December 13.** Our second annual holiday bake sale will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the research library. AND we'll have a booth at the GPHS holiday bazaar all day.

■ **December 20.** Traditional Victorian Christmas — a fund-raiser for the society — is from 2 to 4 p.m. at Newman United Methodist Church. Tickets are \$5 at the society or call 479-7827. See page 2 for details.

For information on any of these events call 479-7827.

Auxiliary will decorate Schmidt House as part of home tour

By Edith Decker

For the first time, the Josephine County Historical Society is teaming up with the Three Rivers Community Hospital Auxiliary to be part of the auxiliary's annual tour of homes.

The auxiliary members will be doing much of the decorating and the tour will give many who haven't heard about the Schmidt House a chance to come see it in full holiday glory.

The home tours began in 1967, making this the 30th holiday tour of decorated homes.

It's scheduled Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The \$5 ticket can be purchased at the society office or from auxiliary members.

President-elect Diana Cann is organizing the five-stop tour that includes the Sen Home in Prospect, the "dollhouse" at Pine and G streets, the Guite home in Merlin, the Schmidt House and tea at Rogue Valley Retirement Residence on A Street, where some of the residents decorate their apartments and rooms and hold open house.



Last year's decor featured Teddy Bears up the stair.

See HOUSE, page 2

inside:

Victorian Christmas opportunity	2
Old-fashioned recipes	3
Christmases past	4-5
From the bookshop.	6
Mystery photo	7

House continued from page 1

Cann says the auxiliary volunteers will use the decorations on hand at the society to spruce up for the tour.

"We're going to work with the volunteers there at the Schmidt House and help them."

The money raised from the tickets will go to the auxiliary and we'll get the house decorated and an influx of interested tourgoers in exchange.

Of course, all the auxiliary's funds go toward equipment for the hospital. Last year some of the items included a special blanket for premature babies, a fetal heart monitor, a blood donor chair, new TVs for the patient rooms and a centrifuge for the lab.

"We work as hard as we can to make as much as we can and then we ask the hospital for a list of items that are needed and we decide what we're going to buy," Cann says. "These are items that are on the budget, but are getting pushed further and further down."

The home tour isn't the auxiliary's only fund-raiser, but it is one of the most popular.

"Every year we start early and approach people in the community who have homes that we think would be of interest," Cann says. "The Schmidt House, we had seen it last year all decorated, and we thought, 'What the heck, if they're willing to let us, we'd love to have it on the tour'."

In conjunction with the tour, the second annual holiday bake sale — with goodies provided by society cooks and bakers — will be running at the research library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., giving "tourists" a chance to support the historical society financially as well.

If you're interested in participating in the bake sale, please call the office, 479-7827.

And come by for the tour — support two good causes in one day.

Society participates in a turn-of-century holiday fest

The historical society has been given the chance to participate in a different kind of fund-raiser this holiday season.

On Dec. 20, the society will combine forces with Kitty Kaping Funk and a new group, "Victorian Carolers and Actors," to celebrate traditional Victorian Christmas customs and music.

Centered on 1897, the turn-of-the-century festival will be at Newman United Methodist Church, 132 N.E. B St., Grants Pass from 2 to 4 p.m.

The Actors and Carolers dressed in Victorian costume will share Christmas carols, theatrical vignettes and music. Society players will present a living history of Grants Pass in 1897 with special portrayals of townsfolk of 100 years ago.

See them for yourself at the Victorian Christmas.

Those attending are encouraged to dress the part as well and participate in the traditional carols.

Tickets are \$5 and benefit the society. Advance tickets are available at the society office or call 479-7827.

THE OLDTIMER

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512 S.W. Fifth St., Grants Pass, OR 97526.
(541) 479-7827

❖
Annual dues are \$15 and include a subscription.

❖
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Lee Ann Tardieu — publishing committee chairman

❖
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all members of the society.

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Saturday, December 20
2:00-4:00 P.M.

Newman United Methodist Church
6th and "B" St.

Tickets: \$5.00

*At the Historical Society, 5th and "J", or Door
All Proceeds to benefit the Josephine County Historical Society.
For information call Rose Scott at 479-7827.*



Old-fashioned holiday recipes

Taffy Pull

1 cup light Karo syrup	1 tablespoon corn oil
3/4 cup water	1 teaspoon salt
2 cups sugar	vanilla or other flavoring
1 tablespoon cornstarch	color if desired

Combine the sugar and cornstarch, corn oil, water and syrup in a saucepan or heavy skillet. Stir until mixture boils rapidly and cook to 255 degrees or until the hard ball stage. Take from the stove and cool until it can be handled. Pull into a rope and double back. Continue the process until the taffy gets too difficult to pull. (This part is great for kids.) Flavor and color while pulling. Ideas: Cut in half and color half green and half red, then twist the two ropes together to make a large cane. Or twist, then cut into bite size pieces.

Candied Cranberries

2 cups large firm cranberries
2 cups sugar, divided

Wash and dry cranberries. Spread in bottom of baking dish. Sprinkle with 1 1/2 cups of the sugar, cover tightly and bake in 350 degree oven for an hour. Stir once or twice in between to distribute sugar. Cool the cranberries in the syrup. Then lift out and drain on a sheet of waxed paper. Sprinkle a little granulated sugar over the berries and let stand until all are dry and firm. Use as a confection or to decorate holiday desserts.

Spiced Nuts

1 cup sugar
5 tablespoons water
1 tablespoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups whole or halves nutmeats

Combine the sugar, water, cinnamon and vanilla and bring to a boil. Boil 2 minutes. Add the nuts and stir until coated. Drop on waxed paper to cool.



969 SE Sixth St., Grants Pass 541/479-3351

Scotch Toffee

2 cups quick oats
1/3 cup melted butter or margarine
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup honey or Karo syrup
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons vanilla
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Preheat oven to 450 degrees. Pour melted butter over oats and mix well. Add brown sugar, honey, salt and vanilla. Mix thoroughly. Pack firmly into a well oiled 8-inch square pan and bake in 450 degree oven for 12 minutes or until brown. The mixture will bubble. Place on wire rack and cool completely. Loosen the edges, turn pan over and tap it until the candy comes out.

Melt the chocolate chips in a double boiler and spread evenly on top of candy. Sprinkle with the nuts. Chill in refrigerator until chocolate hardens and then cut into about 40 squares. Store in refrigerator.

Yorkshire Christmas Pie

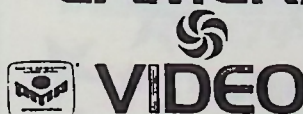
from "Art of Cookery" 1774

Make a crust with sides and bottom thick and large enough to hold a turkey, goose, fowl partridge and pigeon, all boned.

Season well and place the meat as close together as possible in the crust. Fill the spaces with woodcock, moor game and any other wild fowl at hand. Add four pounds of butter, lay on a top layer of crust, and bake for at least four hours.

Mrs. Glasse, the author of the cook book, added that the crust should be "well built," which in her estimation required at least a bushel of flour.

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History at the center

By Edith Decker

Lucky for me, when I want a glimpse into history, I need only step down into the Daily Courier's "dungeon" and open any of the walls full of past newspapers, all bound up into big books and waiting once more for an interested reporter, such as myself, to open them.

So when I thought of filling History at the Center with news from Christmases past, I just needed to grab a notebook. Here's some of what I found:

In 1922, 75 years ago, the news was of Prohibition. "Enforcement of Liquor Law Held a Success" was the now-ironic headline on a story from Washington D.C. on Dec. 23.

Locally, Chief of Police McLane destroyed 5 gallons of liquor seized from prisoners on the order of a judge who was finishing his term and didn't want any, ummm, loose ends left behind.

Meanwhile, on Christmas Day, Grants Pass' postal employees went all out to deliver packages — taking one last load with them in their own cars for delivery on their way home for holiday dinner.

And at the Rivoli, Emil Jannings was starring in "The Loves of Pharaoh."

In 1947, 50 years ago, a veterans group was petitioning and gathering support for making Camp White into a veteran's hospital and domiciliary (which it now is). The state had considered using the buildings there for a mental hospital, but abandoned the plan.

One of the last deceased soldiers to return home — a victim of the battle of Normandy — was laid to rest the day after Christmas in Grants Pass.

On the comics page I found Dickie Dare, Home Hoopee and Scorchy Smith.

And 35 cents bought TWO cans of cranberry sauce at the Piggly Wiggly.

In 1972, 25 years ago, Christmas

services and get-togethers were the only bright spot in holiday papers filled with bad news.

On Dec. 26, Harry S. Truman died at age 88. In the coming days, the country mourns and dignitaries gather to eulogize the 33rd president.

And also the day after Christmas, U.S. forces resume bombing North Vietnam after a mere 36-hour cease fire to allow the troops to celebrate Christmas.

In 1987, 10 years ago, co-workers stage an elaborate joke on Judge L.A. Cushing on Dec. 22. The judge walked into court expecting a standard arraignment, but found the case of Ebenezer Scrooge vs. Santa Claus and a gallery full of children instead. After lawyers for both parties spoke about the charges against Santa — breaking and entering, FAA violations and late-night Ho-ho-hoing that disturbed the peace, Cushing wisely found for the plaintiff and released Santa in time for the Christmas Pageant.

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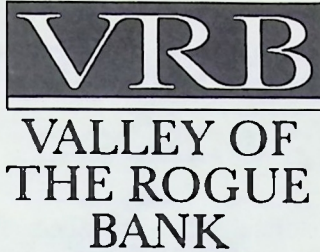
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From the collection

A card catalog

"From the collection" features interesting items in the care of the society. Some may be recent acquisitions or some may be long held by the society.

Ben Jantzer has been kind enough to bring by a large collection of greeting cards and offer them on temporary loan for us to examine.

This Christmas "Greetings from Grants Pass, Ore." postcard is complete with cancelled one-cent stamp, dated Nov. 22, 1910, and addressed only to "Miss Sylvia Lehman, Speaker, Oreg." Miss Lehman became Mrs. Jantzer, Ben's mother. She was born at Golden on Dec. 7, 1897 — 100 years ago this month.

This particular card had a pre-printed message from W.B. Sherman orchards and begins: "At Grants Pass I saw 33 boxes of Spitzenberg Apples which were grown on one tree; also 40 boxes of Winter Nelis pears from one tree" and goes on to encourage people to find out more about buying these items for the holidays.

But there's some civic pride too as the message ends: "Grants Pass is certainly a beautiful town. They have just finished laying bithulithic paving and the cluster lights look fine. I believe their Main Street is the prettiest street on the Pacific Coast. Hastily," and then there's a blank for the card sender to fill in his or her name.

Many of the other cards were from the holidays, with separate cards sent for Christmas and New Year's.



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Words from the bookshop



Stocking stuffer ideas



Here are a few softbound booklets, small enough to fit into a holiday stocking:



- "Gyppo Logging Days" by Curt Beckham, \$7
- "The Legend of Indian Mary and Umpqua Joe" by Percy Booth, \$7.95
- "Zuni Fetishes" by Frank Hamilton Cushing, \$3
- "Hiking the Rogue" by Art Bernstein, \$6.95
- "Oregon Trail Souvenir Book" by Rick Steiber, \$2.50
- "At Home in the Wilderness" by Sun Bear, \$6.95
- "50 Hikes in the Oregon Coast Range and Siskiyou" by Rhonda and George Ostertag, \$10.95
- "Oregon's Great Train Holdup" by Bert Webber, \$8.95
- "Night Before Christmas" by Deane Goode, \$1.
- "Hoffman Rockhound Guide" by Charles and Margaret Hoffman, \$9.95
- "Indian Battles Along the Rogue River" by Frank K. Walsh
- "Barnstormers Theatre" by Mildred Watt, \$4
- "Timeline History of Oregon Caves" \$3.95
- "They Pushed Back the Forest" by Doris Chase, \$4.25
- "A Road Past His Door" by Don M. Chase, \$3.50



Member appreciation day means deals on Dec. 13

On Saturday, Dec. 13, all historical society members are invited to visit the bookshop and enjoy holiday savings during member appreciation day. Bring in the coupon below and save 10 percent off your TOTAL purchase. Bring your member card and the coupon below and save not only on society publications, but baked goods, gift memberships, crafts, anything in the bookshop!

Good only on December 13, 1997 Member Appreciation Day

Celebrate the holiday season at the
Josephine County Historical Society Bookstore and save

10% off your total purchase

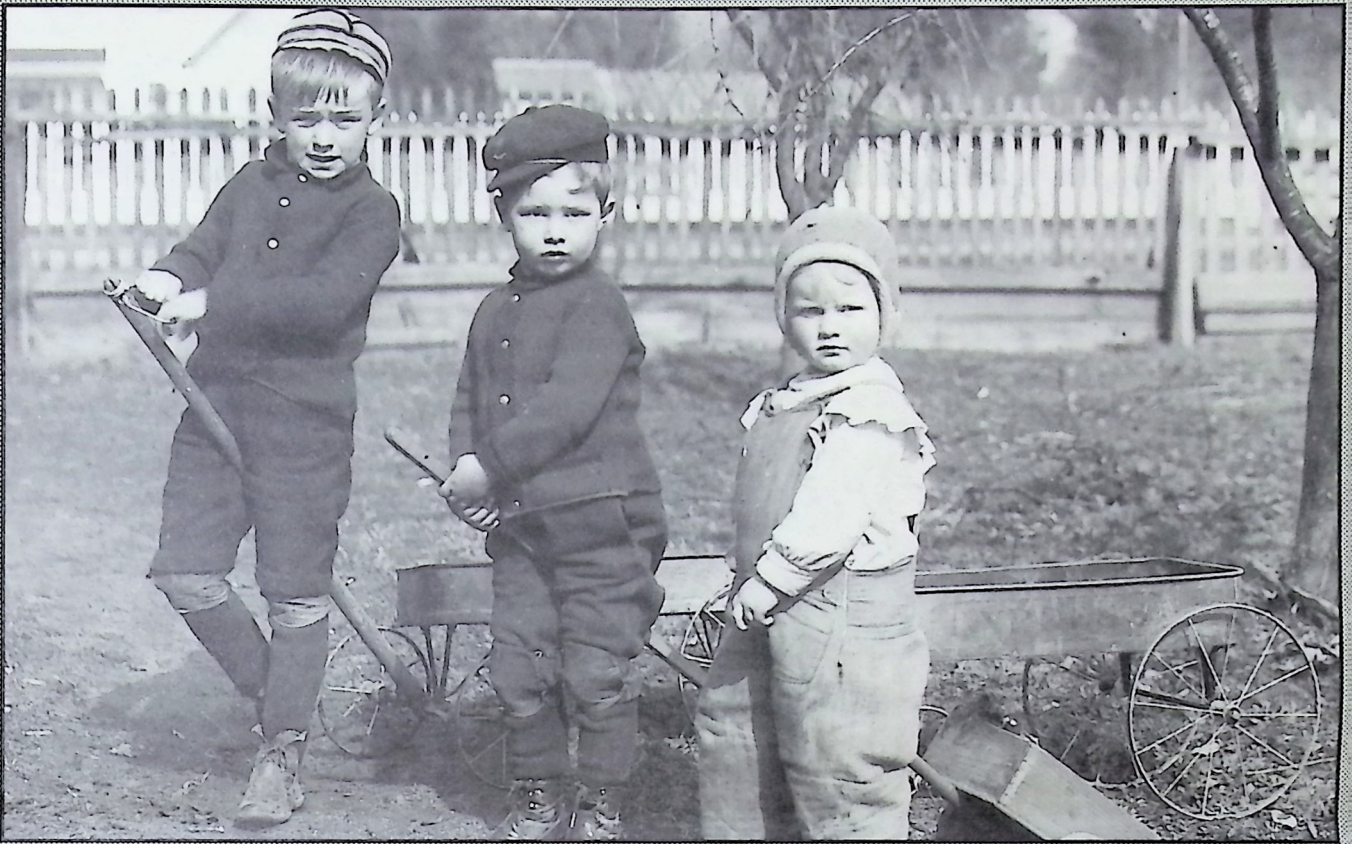
Valid Dec. 13, 1997 only. Members must present their member card and this coupon to receive the 10 percent discount.

Here are some ideas for that coupon

- "A History of Josephine County." This limited edition volume contains over 400 family, church, club and business histories and hundreds of historic photographs. It is 8-by-10 inches in size, Smyth-sewn and hardbound in red leatherette cover with bronze embossed cover art. \$65.
- "They Settled in Applegate Country." By Olga Wedemeyer Johnson. The story of the pioneering of the Applegate Valley in eastern Josephine County. The book also includes excellent photographs to augment the stories. There are 945 family names listed in the index. \$15.95.
- "110 Years with Josephine." By Jack Sutton. An illustrated history of Josephine County, 1856-1966, with many maps, very old photographs and a chronological survey from 1875 through 1925. 205 pages. \$15.95. (Only a few copies left, so hurry!)
- "Logging Good Times, Wilderville." Edited in 1962 by Mrs. Robert Helms, assisted by Jack Sutton and Elizabeth Hiller, this is a well-illustrated booklet about the history of logging in Josephine County. 36 pages. \$2.
- "The Man Who Loved Flying: Col. Leroy Gray Heston." By Edna May J. Hill. A wonderful book about a local hero. Heston joined the Army Air Corps in 1929, going to Kunning, China, on contract with Col. C.L. Chennault to help train young Chinese pilots. During WWII, he flew with the Flying Tigers and was air attache in Taiwan. \$8.95
- "Mondays Make History." Gathered and reprinted in two volumes, so far, the tabloid size newspaper reprints are \$1 per volume.

Mystery photo:

Circle the wagons! These cozily dressed youngsters look serious about winter. Know who they are? Call us.



Reproductions of this and other cool photos from our files are available from the research library.

Holiday poetry

Enjoy these two season poems by two of our members. Both were first published in the "Southern Oregon Sunrise," December, 1976.

Christmas

A time for hope,
for joy
for tinsel and song.
For fellowship
and remembering Grandma —
who always got you for a week,
and loved you for coming
at Christmas time ...

— Dorothy Francis

World's Most Beautiful Sight

Is there a finer beauty
than the happiness of a smile
when a forgotten child's remembered
and again his life's worthwhile

When, because of someone's caring
his heart can leap in joy
and he can know a gladness
in a new game or a toy

What greater beauty is there
when, beneath long years of life
the golden sun in sinking
yet weary souls grow bright

All because the youths remember
and share their love and time
their songs ring out and laughter
and an oldster now feels fine

The genuine beauty of the grateful
confined by bed or bar
when girls and boys remember them
with a gift, a talk, a star

Inspiring them with hope for the future
a will to fight for health or what's right
giving a helping hand with a purpose
our world's most beautiful sight

— Nancy Rand



happy holiday season!
Society wish you and yours a
Josephine County Historical
The staff and volunteers at the
Special holiday issue!

THE OLDTIMER NEWSLETTER

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